

# NORTHWOODS JOURNAL – SEPTEMBER 2023

*A Free Publication about Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County’s Outdoor Life*

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## “...Everybody was ‘Frogbit-Fighting’!” Helping Prevent the Spread of a Persistent Invasive Aquatic Plant

<https://www.facebook.com/wisconsinlandwater>



We had a "ribbet-ing" time in early August working alongside Marinette County Land & Water Conservation and other partners in the Peshtigo River to remove **European Frogbit** (below), an invasive aquatic plant that forms large colonies of dense floating mats that can dramatically affect native aquatic life and recreational activities.



Dozens of bags were removed from river. Various partners from the [Wisconsin Lakes Partnership](#) worked to remove the invasive European frog-bit plant from the Peshtigo River on August 2. Representatives from the Extension Lakes Program at UWSP College of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition, Marinette County, Marinette County Land & Water Conservation, FLOW AIS, and Wisconsin Land + Water Conservation Association participated in the workday.



The Marinette County Land Information Department had three summer staff helping pull this invasive throughout the County. ***They pulled over 3,700 pounds of European Frogbit this summer!*** [See page 7 for more about the project.](#)

Visit this link for a great video of ‘frogbit fighting’ featuring some of Marinette County’s Land Information staff!

<https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/videos/news/local/2023/08/20/video-wisconsin-conservationists-target-invasive-european-frogbit-2023/8361160001/>

To learn more about this invasive species, visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/.../Invasives/fact/EuropeanFrogbit>. Learn more here: <https://wateractionvolunteers.org/.../aquatic-invasive.../>

## Fall Plant Sale at Harmony Arboretum!



The fall plant sale at Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens will be held on **Tuesday, September 19 from 4-6 p.m.** at N3890 County Rd. E, Peshtigo, WI 54157. Hosted by the Northern Lights Master Gardeners, Inc., there will be a variety of plants to choose from. They can help with any plant questions or information. *You can also now join NLMGAI as an Associate Member! No experience or Master Gardener certification required.* Visit the Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association, Inc. on Facebook.





## Cattails: The Corndogs of Our Waterways

<https://www.willyswilderness.org/post/cattails-the-corndogs-of-our-waterways>



Driving down the road, you spot corndogs swaying in the tall grass. Take a second look. Is there a carnival nearby? You quickly realize that can't be the case. Corndogs don't grow out of the ground. But you may not realize that you are looking at a different tasty treat. These plants, commonly called cattails, grow near (and even in) water. Can you imagine a clowder (group) of cats stalking through the leaves, tails held high at attention as they hunt for fish?

**You can eat every part of cattails, from their tip all the way to their roots.** The trick is knowing what to eat and how. Never eat a plant without first checking with a knowledgeable person. Let's take a closer look at cattails from top to bottom.



### Spike

What part of the cattail is the brown corndog? The flowers! The lower, wider part is covered with the female flowers. Female flowers have ovaries where seeds will form. A long, thin spike grows from the top, like a roasting stick. Look closely to see tiny flowers covering the spike too — the male flowers. Male flowers hold the pollen. Both sets of flowers show in spring, one set on top of the other with a little gap in between. Pollen from the male flowers needs to get to the female flowers so seeds can form.



You can also enjoy pollen as the first tasty treat. Mix it with flour to add a protein-rich, nutty flavor to baked goods like pancakes or muffins. Or you can boil the early green female flowers right on the stem and eat like corn on the cob. Slather with butter for another favorite carnival treat.

### Stem

Stems of plants work like straws, bringing needed water from the roots to all the other

parts of the plant. Do you like cucumbers? Then you might enjoy a snack of cattail stems. Break off a piece and peel the outer layer like a banana. The middle can be eaten raw or boiled. Yummy cucumber crunch!



### Leaves

Leaves wrap around the stem in layers. Eat young leaves in salads or on sandwiches instead of lettuce or other greens. As you detach a leaf from the stem, you may notice some goo oozing out. Don't try that gel as a salad dressing or sandwich spread. Instead, use it like aloe vera. Rub it on your sunburn or scrapes for cooling relief.

Those are all the parts of the cattail plant *we can see*. But we're not finished snacking yet. Plunge your hands below the surface for a final treat.

### Rhizome

Feel for a sideways, underground stem. That's the rhizome. Roots grow from the bottom and shoots (new plants) pop up from the top. A chunk of rhizome looks like a baked potato — dark skin on the outside and white on the inside. Boil, bake or broil like a potato for a carbohydrate-filled treat. Rhizome fries, anyone? Grind dried rhizomes into flour. What will you bake first?



So, cattails aren't corndogs after all. But maybe they are even better! From top to bottom, cattails provide so much nutrition, like protein and carbohydrates. You get a whole buffet of edible options from just one plant!

### Know before you try

If you decide to give cattails a try, make sure you have permission to pick them. Plants in forest preserves are protected. Picking them breaks the rules. Cattails grow in bodies of water. Once you know you have permission, look for clean, unpolluted water. When the straw of the stem sucks up the water, it also sucks up pollutants. This is such a great adaptation for cleaning up waterways, but those pollutants are not healthy for us to eat.

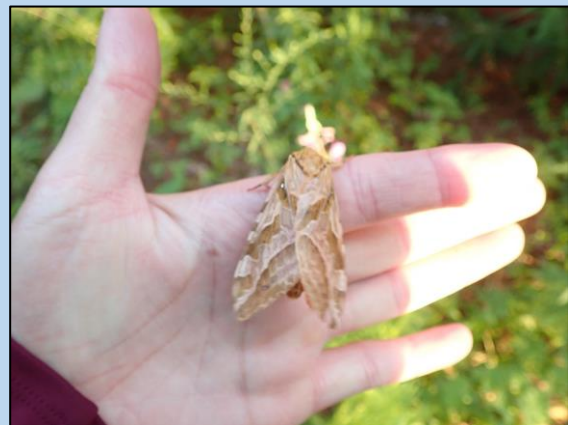
And always, always, always check with a plant expert before tasting any plant. Lookalikes may not be safe to eat. Even edible plants need to be eaten at the right time. And some plants may have some edible parts, but not others. ***Enjoy adventurous eating, but safely.***

For more about harvesting cattails:

- <https://extension.umn.edu/natural-resources-news/wild-edibles-cattails>
- <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/water-plants/cattails/harvesting-wild-cattails.htm>

## Meet the Four-spotted Ghost Moth!

<https://search.museums.ualberta.ca/g/2-2299>



*Sthenopis purpurascens*, the four-spotted ghost moth, is a species of moth of the family *Hepialidae*. It is found in Canada and the United States, from Labrador and New York north and west to British Columbia and the Northwest Territories, south in the mountains to Arizona. Habitat is mature mixed wood and poplar forest, in particular near wetlands.

The wingspan is 66–100 mm. There are two color forms, a purple-grey and a yellow-brown form. The forewings have a darker oblique median band, a darker terminal area and darker spots along the *costa* (the anterior margin of the forewing). There are two small, silver spots near the wing base. The hindwings are purple brown or salmon pink and generally unmarked.



Females deposit eggs in the vicinity of the host while in flight. The larvae bore into the roots of poplars, willows or alder where they complete the life cycle. The larvae apparently take two years to complete the lifecycle. Mature larvae are about 50-60 cm long, with cream-white bodies, brown heads and brown bases of the setae. The adults are *crepuscular* (around dawn/dusk) and are poorly attracted to light.

## Nature Scavenger Hunt





## What's got You Sneezing? Blame Ragweed, not Goldenrod!

<https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/news-events/the-buzz/what-s-got-you-sneezing-blame-ragweed-not-golden>

There's something in the air, and it might be making you snuffle and sneeze. Plenty of us suffer from seasonal allergies, and at this time of year there's usually one culprit: ragweed.

Ragweed is a common cause of seasonal allergies in late summer because that is when the plants begin to release their pollen into the air, according to the [Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America](#). For the approximately 15% of Americans who are allergic to ragweed pollen, this can be an especially miserable period because it can cause itchy and puffy eyes; an itchy nose and throat; a stuffy or runny nose; sneezing; and mucous in the throat caused by postnasal drip.

While ragweed is the source of misery for many people, an innocent plant — goldenrod — is often wrongly blamed. Both ragweed and goldenrod belong to the *Asteraceae* family, and 20 species of ragweed and more than 75 species of goldenrod are native to the United States, according to the [Clemson Cooperative Extension](#).



Goldenrod (left) and ragweed.

The misdirected blame goldenrod gets for seasonal allergies, also known as hay fever, at this time of year is partly because both bloom at the same time — right about this time every year, the Clemson extension reports. Goldenrod and ragweed also both frequently grow in open fields and roadside ditches, but that's about where the similarities end.

Although both plants typically bloom from late July into September, ragweed species produce green, non-showy flowers, according to the [University of Illinois Extension](#). On the other hand, goldenrod typically has showy yellow flowers.

**The two plants are also pollinated differently.** *Ragweed*, which does not have nectar in its flowers, relies on wind for pollination. This is what makes it so tough on people who are allergic. Wind can carry ragweed pollen miles away from its plant of origin, the Clemson extension reports, and one ragweed plant can produce more than 1 billion grains of pollen!

However, *Goldenrod is pollinated by insects, which visit for its nectar*. Pollen from goldenrod plants is heavier and stickier than that of ragweed and cannot be carried by the wind. Instead, pollinating insects like bees, beetles, butterflies and wasps visit the plants and aid in pollination.



Bumblebees and beetles nectaring on showy goldenrod.

About 75% of Americans who are allergic to plants that produce pollen are allergic to ragweed, according to the [University of Florida Extension](#). For these hay fever sufferers, being able to identify ragweed is important so they can remove it from their yards before it begins releasing its pollen to the wind.

Because ragweed does not produce colorful, showy flowers, it's easiest to identify by its stems and leaves (below). The plants typically produce rough and hairy branching stems that are purplish in color. The leaves are smooth and divided into lobed portions.



The best way to control ragweed plants is to either mow or remove them with a hoe earlier in the summer, before the plants have bloomed, the Illinois extension advises. The plants are shallowly rooted and are not difficult to remove by hand.

## Adaptive Wheel Hike at Thunder Mountain October 3-8

<https://www.exploremarinettecounty.com/pages/wheel-hike-together/>



**Wheel Hike Together** is an adaptive hiking event where individuals with limited mobility can use an all-terrain track chair to explore almost 3 miles of trails and scenic overlooks at Thunder Mountain. In place of wheels, the motorized chairs operate on a track system and offer a placement option for a companion to control the chair.

Individuals who are not able to hike due to temporary or permanent physical limitations, including shortness of breath, may reserve chairs in one-hour increments and explore the park's autumn scenery with friends and family. **There is no cost to reserve a chair, however reservations must be made in advance** (registration opened in August). Regular park entry fees apply - Marinette County Parks day passes are \$5 and available at self-service stations located at park entrances. Annual or day passes can also be purchased online by visiting [marinettecounty.com/parks/](https://www.marinettecounty.com/parks/).

Participants with care needs must be accompanied by a companion. No residency requirements apply. Limited quantities of select supportive gear are available, however participants are encouraged to bring required care equipment, including transfer equipment. All transfers must be conducted by companions; event staff will not be available to assist.

### Event Information:

October 3 - 8, 2023

9:30am-5:00pm (1 hour time slots available - must pre-register)

W14000 Thunder Mountain Rd, Crivitz, WI (715) 732-7530

[Register Here](#)

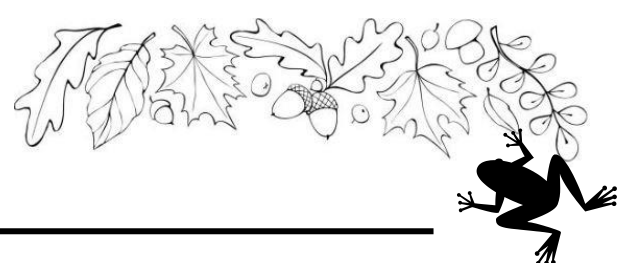
Thunder Mountain is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Crivitz, WI, and will remain open to other park visitors throughout the duration of Wheel Hike Together. Thunder Mountain is one of the stops on Marinette County's Fall Colors Tour.

This event is sponsored by Marinette County Parks, Explore Marinette County, Marinette County ADRC and Options for Independent Living.

For a video from the 2022 Wheel Hike, visit <https://www.nbc26.com/news/local-news/in-your-neighborhood/marinette/marinette-county-brings-accessible-hiking-to-the-community>.

## Northwoods Journal Online

Do you want to read current issues of the Northwoods Journal online or catch up on past issues? Visit [www.marinettecounty.com](https://www.marinettecounty.com) and search for "Northwoods Journal." We can also send you an e-mail reminder when a new issue is posted online, or we can mail you a paper copy if you prefer. Email Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist, at [anne.bartels@marinettecountywi.gov](mailto:anne.bartels@marinettecountywi.gov) or call 715-732-7780.





## Never Plant These Invasive Shrubs (and what to grow instead)!

<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/gardening-basics/alternatives-invasive-shrubs/>

Exotic invasive shrubs pose a threat to natural areas. The qualities that make them attractive and low maintenance also allow them to survive and spread when they jump the garden fence into the woods and fields. Once there, they outcompete native plants that are vital to the survival of wildlife. However, removing any invasive shrubs already in your yard can be easier said than done.

Some are still commonly sold at garden centers and have design value in the landscape. And some even offer food for birds or butterflies, so it might seem counterintuitive to eliminate them. *Remember, though, that even if some wildlife benefit from these shrubs, they can destroy habitat for many other species. In the big picture, native plants provide the best wildlife habitat.* Luckily, there are great native alternatives to invasive shrubs that can play the same role in the landscape.

### Invasive shrub – Butterfly Bush

Renowned for its ability to attract butterflies, butterfly bush has become invasive in the Pacific Northwest and much of the East. If you want to grow this plant, look for sterile, seedless cultivars like 'Blue Chip'.

Native alternatives - Buttonbush (below), New Jersey tea, summersweet and elderberry are excellent shrub alternatives for the East; all are irresistible to butterflies. And unlike butterfly bush, which doesn't support caterpillars, many of these shrubs are also caterpillar host plants.



### Invasive shrub – Burning Bush

This ubiquitous shrub is popular for its deep red fall foliage, but it's a woodland invasive in the East, Midwest and South.

Native shrubs that provide an equally stunning scarlet display include sweetspire, blueberry, and fothergilla (below). These vibrant alternatives also offer nectar to pollinators, berries for birds or even both.



### Invasive Shrubs: Japanese Barberry and Pyracantha

These invasive shrubs feature bright red or orange berries. Birds eat them and spread the seeds beyond the garden, where they germinate and dominate. Barberry is invasive in the Northeast, the Great Lakes area and parts of the Northwest, while pyracantha is a problem in California, Texas and parts of the Deep South.

Native alternatives include berry-producing shrubs including dogwoods, winterberry holly, elderberry, chokeberry, native viburnums, and blueberry. Spicebush has red berries and is also unpalatable to deer, just like these two invasives.



Above: winterberry holly; below, chokeberry with fruit



### Other Invasive Shrubs to Avoid

You might have invasive shrubs on your property that aren't sold in nurseries and that you didn't deliberately plant. With these long-established invasives, it's important to put something in their place after removal so that the invasive plant doesn't come right back. ***Multiflora rose, Russian or autumn olive, Himalayan blackberry, buckthorn, and privet or bush honeysuckle should all be removed and replaced.***

Native shrub alternatives include Witch hazel, Carolina rose, highbush blueberry, and hawthorn. Other shrubs like serviceberry, snowberry, and ninebark (below) are also good choices. Try any combination of native plants that suits the landscape and offers benefits for wildlife.



Here are some resources about native shrubs for our area:

- <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/news/arboretum-news/gardening-with-native-plants-shrubs-for-the-new-year/>
- [https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/resources/heal/thylakes/Top10forWildlife\\_LR\\_080111.pdf](https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/resources/heal/thylakes/Top10forWildlife_LR_080111.pdf)
- [https://wisconsinpollinators.com/Garden/G\\_FloweringShrubs.aspx](https://wisconsinpollinators.com/Garden/G_FloweringShrubs.aspx)
- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangere/dresources/nativeplants>
- <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/nh/nh0936.pdf>
- <https://www.prairienursery.com/plants-seeds/native-plants/shrubs-and-vines.html>
- <https://kb.iniplants.com/all/plants/native-shrubs/>

## \* New Invasive Species Found in Red Arrow Park in City of Marinette \*

Amanda Smith, WI DNR



The aquatic invasive species Flowering Rush and was found and reported by a Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) team member during an invasive species event held at Red Arrow park and neighboring State Natural Area in early August.

Flowering Rush is an **NR40 Restricted Species** meaning it is either fairly common throughout and/or complete eradication is unlikely. For more information on this species, please visit the Flowering Rush webpage: [Flowering rush | \(Butomus umbellatus\) | Wisconsin DNR.](#)

Myself along with the Local AIS Coordinator (Derek Thorn) will be working with the local invasive species organization called Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) to determine next steps as it relates to grant funding focused on assessment, planning, and potential control work. We'll also be in touch with Park Managers along with State Natural Area managers for Seagull Bar SNA to coordinate those efforts.

***Reporting invasive species is a first step in containing their spread.*** Maintaining and restoring our waters and landscapes can reduce the impacts of invasive species. Want to help in the effort? Here are some ideas of what you can do:

- ✓ Follow the law and practice the following each time you interact with surface water:
  - INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment.
  - REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading and before transporting on a public highway).
  - DRAIN all water from boats, motors and all equipment.
  - NEVER MOVE live fish away from a waterbody.
  - DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.
  - BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer. Use leftover minnows only under certain conditions\*
- ✓ Buy native plants
- ✓ Restore your shoreline – check out [Healthy Lakes and Rivers website](#) for financial and technical assistance
- ✓ Become a Clean Boats Clean Waters volunteer – contact your Local AIS Coordinator for training opportunities (Derek Thorn, [flowais@lumberjackrccd.org](mailto:flowais@lumberjackrccd.org))

### Contact Information:

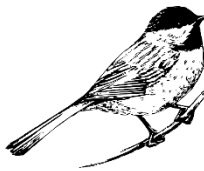
Amanda Smith  
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Office of Great Waters/Environmental Management  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
2984 Shawano Avenue Green Bay, WI 54313  
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## Top 10 Seed-Bearing Plants for Birds in the Garden

<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/flower-gardening/top-10-seed-bearing-plants/>



Didn't get around to cleaning out those flower beds this fall? Now you can justify it - not only is it good for your plants, but it's also a great food source for the birds! *Keep in mind that you will need to remove any diseased plants,* but leaving the seed-bearing plants up actually increases the chance of the plants' winter survival. And with snowy days and freezing nights, your feathered friends are looking for food just about anywhere they can get it, so they'll appreciate the extra food the plants provide. Here are our top picks for "leave-'em-up" perennials.



This native plant combination of hairy mountain mint, aster and wild bergamot in a field serves as a food source for birds during winter.

### Allium

If you want to add a colorful bounce to your garden, there's no better bloomer than [allium](#). This pretty perennial is a winning selection for almost any yard. Not only can you find alliums to suit almost any spot, the enchanting plant is also easy to grow. Different types bloom from late spring to fall. The dried flowers are like huge balls of seeds. Birds can't miss them!



Nodding Wild Onion through the growing season

### Black-eyed Susan

This garden favorite flower (below) ranges in height from 1 to 6 feet, and it delights birds from late summer through winter, or until all the seeds get picked clean. It multiplies fast, so start off with just a few. You'll soon have a huge cluster of natural bird feeders. These seed-bearing plants work well in just about any situation, whether you group them or use them as a background.



### Bee Balm

While it's best known for bringing in the butterflies and hummingbirds in summer, it's also relished by seedeaters later in the season. For cultivars that resist mildew, try Marshall's Delight or Jacob Cline. Its unusual shape stands out in the garden from summer all the way through winter.



### Coreopsis

With new varieties of coreopsis, you can now have this perennial in shades of pink, red and the traditional yellow. A champ in dry areas, some grow up to 4 feet tall. You get lots of blooms for your buck, which translates to lots of food for your birds!



### Sedum

You can buy find both summer and fall blooming sedum. One popular type of this versatile succulent is Autumn Joy, with its broccoli-shaped flower heads. Most sedum peak in fall, bringing in late pollinators looking for a nectar treat. Then the plant continues to offer seed through winter. It's easy to find and hardy in most climates.



### Blanket Flower

This flower does it all, offering long-lasting color in summer and fall, brightening up bouquets and yielding seeds that you can save to plant or pass along to friends. The beautiful flowers come in multiple shades, and the plant stays sturdy into winter.



### Coneflower

This native plant attracts attention from summer till the next spring. Plant in a sunny space and put off cleanup until the snow melts. A bunch of the prickly seedpods will add a boost of winter interest to your garden. The whole plant holds its shape well. Even when the snow piles on top, the sturdy stems won't fail.



### Goldenrod

Be aware that goldenrod can be a bit aggressive, so be sure to plant it near other

assertive plants to maintain some balance or plant a tamer cultivar. If you can find the perfect place for it, you'll love it. It keeps lovely golden shades through fall and then has good winter structure as well. This native favorite also grows abundantly in the wild, so it's the perfect natural food source for birds.



A tree sparrow nibbles at Showy Goldenrod to loosen the seeds

### Aster

A popular cut flower, the aster brings an explosion of color to the end of the growing season. From miniature alpine plants to giants up to 6 feet tall, it will brighten up fall in any backyard. And don't let the small flowers fool you: Birds love it for food! Hundreds of aster varieties give gardeners plenty of colors to choose from.

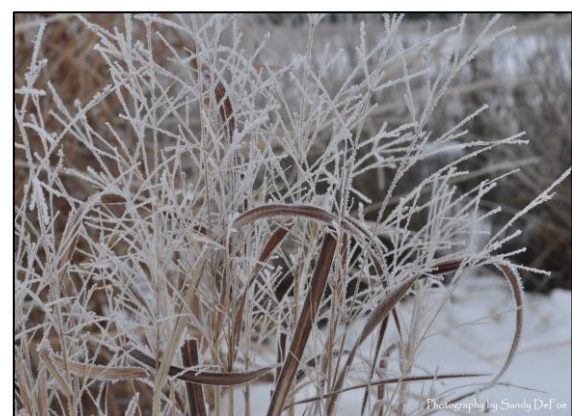


### Switchgrass

These easygoing, versatile ornamental grasses are a good choice for most landscapes. They tolerate drought and prefer full sun, but will tolerate partial shade. Growing tall, they can easily reach more than 5 feet. It's a North American native and, like most grasses, it's attractive in a winter garden.



Switchgrass in the growing season, above; below in the winter landscape





2023 Draft Wolf Management Plan is Now Available

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/81446>



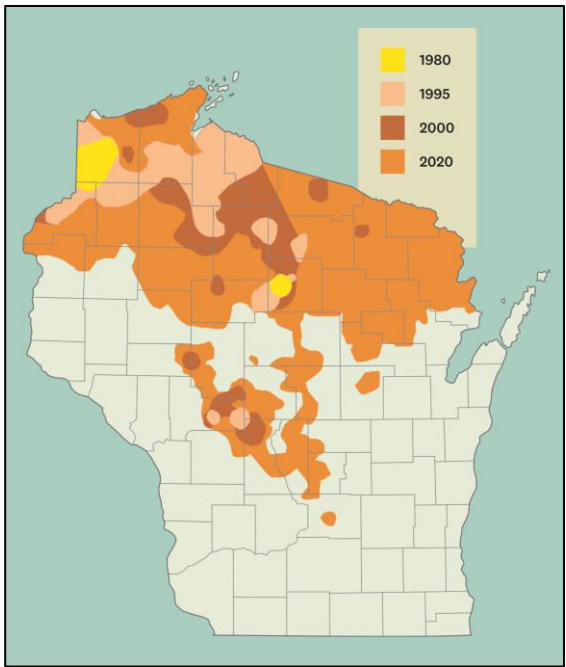
In August, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) released [a revised draft of the 2023 Wolf Management Plan](#). The plan will go to the Natural Resource Board (NRB) during their meeting on Oct. 25, 2023.

The DNR began developing this updated draft plan in early 2021 to align its wolf management strategies with the current state of the wolf population and the desires of a diverse public. The DNR recognizes the biologically recovered status of wolves in Wisconsin, and this plan turns its attention from wolf recovery to long-term stewardship and sustainable management of wolves in the state.

The draft plan aims to guide the department’s management efforts for the coming years and expresses the state’s dual commitments of maintaining a sustainable and ecologically functional wolf population while also being responsive in addressing wolf-related conflicts and concerns. Both commitments are explicitly represented in the plan’s overarching goal:

*Ensure a healthy and sustainable wolf population that fulfills the numerous ecological, cultural, and recreational benefits of wolves, while being responsive in addressing and preventing wolf-related conflicts and recognizing the diverse values and perspectives of all residents in Wisconsin.*

Extensive public input was collected and considered when developing this draft plan. Prior to releasing the first draft plan in November 2022, the DNR created and collaborated with a Wolf Management Plan Committee consisting of 29 stakeholder, tribal and external agency representatives.



Gray wolf range, 1980-2020 - image from WDNR <https://www.milwaukeeimag.com/inside-the-bitter-debate-over-how-to-manage-wolves-in-wisconsin/>

The DNR also consulted with Wisconsin’s Tribal Nations and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), reviewed scientific literature and studied current [public attitudes toward wolves](#) in Wisconsin. Then, the DNR held a 3.5-month public review and

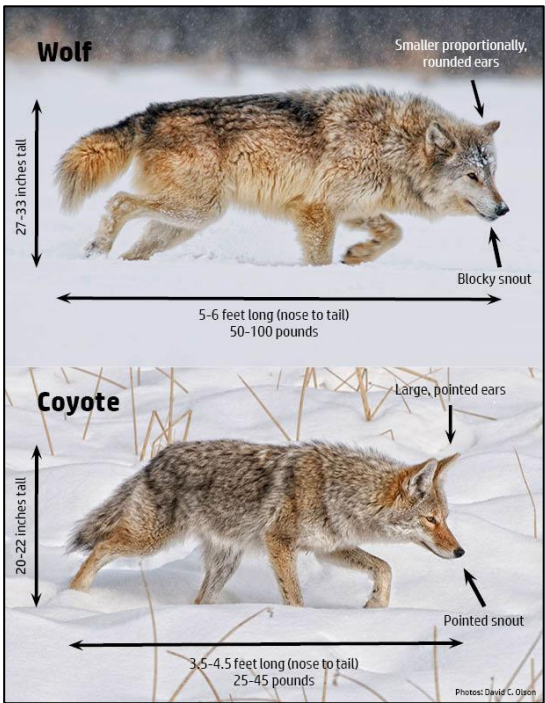
comment period where over 3,500 comments were collected. All comments were reviewed and considered in revising the draft 2023 Wolf Management Plan.

“The public’s interest and passion towards wolves and wolf management showed in the comments the DNR received,” said DNR Secretary Adam N. Payne. “This plan comes from years of dedicated effort and careful consideration, is flexible, actionable, and, most importantly, outlines a path toward responsible and sustainable wolf management. I am thankful to everyone who contributed, reviewed the plan or submitted a comment.”

How Does the Revised Draft Plan Compare To November’s Draft Plan?

Many parts of November’s initial draft plan received predominately positive feedback. Based on this feedback, the [revised draft plan](#) retains strong commitments to maintaining a healthy wolf population in the state, being responsive in assisting those who are negatively affected by interactions with wolves and relying on scientific research and data to inform management decisions. The revised version also maintains an emphasis on ongoing wolf population monitoring and collaboration with other agencies, Tribal Nations, stakeholder groups and the public. Additionally, the revised draft plan continues to recognize the ecological benefits and cultural importance of wolves to the people of Wisconsin.

Based on the public’s feedback, the revised draft maintains its recommendations intended to improve wolf harvest season implementation, such as a shortened harvest registration time and issuing zone-specific licenses. It also better describes how future wolf harvest quotas are recommended to be developed and allocated across management zones. This revision also preserved the updated wolf management zones and subzones, with one boundary modification made.



Other aspects of November’s draft plan have been strengthened in the revised draft plan through the public’s feedback. A common area of concern centered around expectations and uncertainty of future wolf population sizes when there is no numeric population goal. The plan continues to recommend an adaptive management framework instead of a numeric population goal. However, the updated plan provides greater clarity on a projected population range based on the current management objectives. The revised draft plan also discusses how under this plan, natural wolf population dynamics and future wolf harvest

Harmony Demonstration Gardens Open House a Success!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-organization/Northern-Lights-Master-Gardeners-Association-Volunteers-NLMGA-128084290595975/>

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, the Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens hosted an Open House to showcase the new All-American Selection plants, ‘Whimsical Garden’, and a new indigenous garden display. Master Gardeners and volunteers were on hand to answer questions, educate the public, and highlight the gardens. It was a great day to be outside and enjoy the gardens!



levels are expected to maintain statewide wolf abundance at levels comparable to recent years (overwinter estimates of approximately 800 to 1,200 wolves), while also allowing for fluctuations in local wolf densities as necessary to achieve management objectives.

Other additions in the revised draft plan are intended to strengthen transparency and clarify misconceptions evident in the comments, including the clearer goal statement (reflected above), an improved executive summary to provide a concise description of the plan’s vision and actions, and more specific metrics developed to help gauge the success of management actions.

*A draft copy of the full revised 2023 Wolf Management Plan is available on [the DNR’s Wolf Management Plan webpage](#). The DNR recommends that the public read the executive summary for a more concise overview of the revised draft plan before reading the rest of the plan.*





# 2023 Summer Wrap-up Report on European Frog-bit

By Boulin Beck and Jordan Carvenough, Land Information Department LTEs



Throughout the summer of 2023, an ambitious team consisting of Dalanie Langlois, Boulin Beck, and Jordan Carvenough set out to assist the Wisconsin DNR in controlling the spread of an invasive pest called **European Frog-bit**, above. This free-floating plant resembles a small lily pad, but grows into vast mats that drown out other water life. European Frog-bit prefers to develop in still or slow-moving water, hidden away in the marsh's reeds.

Because of this, the bay of Green Bay's shoreline and its related waterways are key areas for monitoring. Since its discovery in Wisconsin in 2021, the Marinette County shoreline and backwaters have been a top priority for surveillance due to having the optimal habitat for the invasive species.



From left to right: Jordan Carvenough, Dalanie Langlois, and Boulin Beck

In early June, the crew began inspecting targeted sites to document the presence or absence of European Frog-bit. Along with manually removing the plants by hand, the team would also collect data regarding the severity of the spread, the life-stage of the plants, and any new locations where European Frog-bit emerged. If there were dense mats that were too big to pull by hand, they would notify the DNR, and the area would be treated chemically. The gathered information was crucial for the Wisconsin DNR's continued efforts to combat the spread of European Frog-bit in Wisconsin.

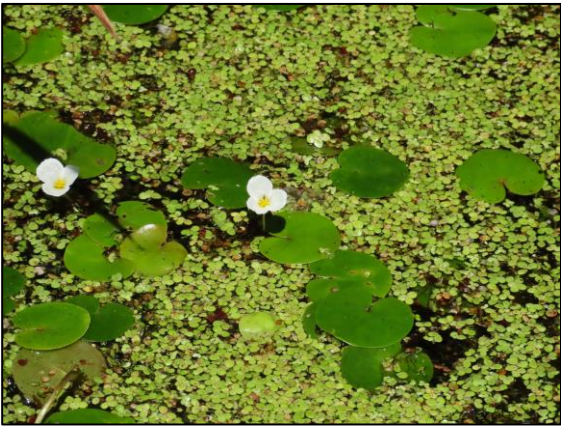
When the team was not monitoring for European Frog-bit, they were oftentimes participating in Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW). The team would be stationed at boat launches around the Peshtigo and Marinette area and inspect watercraft to make sure there were no weeds, mussels, or other aquatic hitchhikers attached to outgoing/incoming boats. This was a way for the team to get out and talk to people in the community and help educate them about the threats of invasive

species, which will hopefully mitigate the spread of invasive species into our local waters.



Of all the sites visited this summer, the two most crucial areas were the Peshtigo Harbor area near the mouth of the Peshtigo River, and Red Arrow Park. But these areas were too big for just three people to handle, so the Wisconsin DNR organized a workday for each area, with people from all over Wisconsin coming to help. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the crew picked a total of 760 lbs. of European Frog-bit out of the Peshtigo Harbor. On August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Red Arrow Park, a total of 480 lbs. was picked, leading to a total of 1240 lbs. of European Frog-bit removed! (See page 1 for more about the EFD workday).

While visiting different locations throughout the summer, the team found it important to detect European Frog-bit early because it spreads very quickly, making it hard to manage once it has been established.



Despite the short amount of time, the team was able to accomplish much throughout the summer: helping each other log the amounts, downloading photos, recording new and previous locations, and just keeping good spirits throughout the summer. The team faced the adversity of going out into the swamps every day, kayaking through the reeds and marching through the knee-deep muck. This would not have been achievable without all team members. ***In total, 3718 lbs. of European Frog-bit were removed this summer!***

If you spot any European Frog-bit, please contact the local Wisconsin DNR office, Green Bay (920)-662-5100; or the Land and Water Conservation Division Office, Marinette, (715)-732-7780.



## \* Invasive Alert! Spongy Moths should be Smooshed on Sight! \*



This year has been a boon for this invasive species, the Spongy moth - formerly known as gypsy moths. Female spongy moths (above), are large and white with a furry head and black strips across the wings. The females are largely immobile, sending out pheromones to attract the smaller brown males and subsequently laying up to 10,000 eggs in a mass resembling a sponge. The pupa, below, are found attached to trees, buildings, and vegetation.



These eggs survive even the coldest Wisconsin winters to hatch in the spring and the resulting caterpillars (below) can devastate a forest canopy. An effective way to support forest health is to smoosh spongy moths (and their egg sacks) when they are found. Alternatively, they can be scraped into a container of soapy water and disposed of after 48 hours.



### Identifying Spongy Moths in lifecycle stages.

Egg Mass: September to April	Caterpillar: Late April to Early August	Pupa: August	Moth: August to Early September
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Image adapted with the permission of the Regional Municipality of York.





Hunting Seasons Opening in September

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/82656>

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds hunters to prepare for the opening of several hunting seasons in September. Hunters can once again head to Wisconsin’s wild spaces as these seasons open across the state.

**There are five dates throughout September when seasons open.** Hunters are encouraged to double check they have the correct opening date for their season before going out for a hunt.



Sept. 1

- Common Gallinule
- Early Canada Goose
- Early Teal
- Mourning Dove
- Rail
- Snipe

Sept. 6

- Bear

Sept. 16

- Cottontail Rabbit (Northern Zone)
- Crow
- Deer Archery and Crossbow
- Goose
- Ruffed Grouse (Zone A)
- Squirrels
- Turkey
- Youth Waterfowl

Sept. 23

- Duck (Northern Zone)
- Woodcock

Sept. 30

- Duck (Southern Zone)

The DNR also reminds hunters of the online resources available on our [Hunting webpage](#). In addition to hunting regulations, seasons dates, hunting hours and other useful resources, the public can find a list of public lands open to hunting using the [Public Access Lands webpage](#). This web resource lets hunters plan their next adventure from the comfort of home.

As Wisconsin’s most popular hunting seasons ramp up, it’s important for all hunters to do their part to keep Wisconsin a safe place to hunt by following these firearm safety rules:

- **T** - Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- **A** - Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
- **B** - Be certain of your target, what’s before it and what’s beyond it.
- **K** - Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1973, must have a hunter education certification to purchase a hunting license unless hunting under the [Mentored Hunting Law](#). Learn more about safe hunting in Wisconsin and register to take a hunter education course [on the DNR website](#). The DNR wishes our hunters a safe and successful hunting season.

Pollinator Gardens in the County

During the last several years, Anne Bartels of the Marinette County Land Information Department has helped install several pollinator gardens around the county for schools, libraries, residents, municipalities, and businesses. Pollinator gardens of any size are important to help provide habitat for bees, butterflies & moths, beetles, and other animals like birds & amphibians, who feed on the insects utilizing the habitat. Pollinator gardens can also contribute to improving humans’ mental health and beautifying neighborhoods. Below is the garden at the Wausaukee School, installed in 2019. Crivitz and Coleman Elementary school, as well as Peshtigo Middle/High School also have pollinator gardens.



This summer, new pollinator gardens were installed at the Wausaukee Library and NWTC in Marinette (below). A few more will be installed this month at the Stephenson Library in Marinette and at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Marinette.



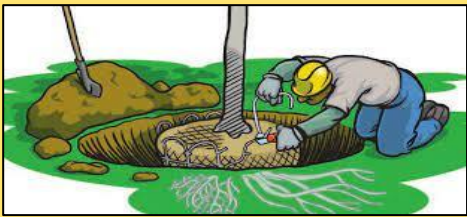
Below is an addition to the Goodwill Possibilities facility in Marinette – the original garden was installed in 2019 (at right in photo) and they wanted to add more to the side of the building.



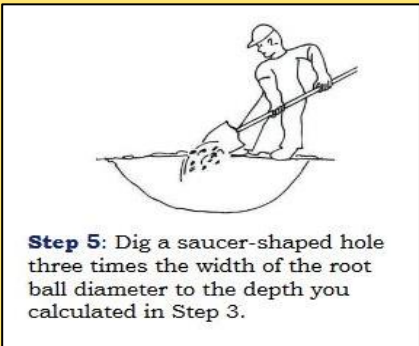
Monarchs visit the pollinator garden at UW-Green Bay – Marinette campus, installed in 2020.

Tree-Planting Tips for Fall

<https://www.facebook.com/Champaigncountymastergardeners>



Are you adding a tree to your landscape this year? Some horticulturalists think that fall is the best time to plant new trees. Proper tree care starts with planting at the correct depth. Dig a hole wide, but not too deep. 80% of a tree’s roots are in the top 12 to 18 inches of soil!



**Step 5:** Dig a saucer-shaped hole three times the width of the root ball diameter to the depth you calculated in Step 3.

From <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/files/2014/11/Tree-Planting-Brochure-VPandian.pdf>

Something else to check for as new trees are planted are **girdling roots**. These are roots that grow around the trunk at the soil line and can effectively strangle the tree by cutting off the flow of nutrients to the trunk. These roots are often created when the tree is planted - they might have been circling the trunk in a container and not straightened out when planted or they may develop if the mulch around the base of the tree is too deep.

See University of Maryland Extension <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/girdling-roots>. Proper planting technique is key to the survival of a newly planted tree. If you hire someone to plant the tree, you can offer advice as you observe their work. It is not guaranteed that the people who are planting your tree will check for proper depth or proper root placement. If girdling roots develop, some experts advise that it is best to consult an arborist on whether they can be removed without further harm to the tree.

Applying mulch around a newly planted tree can help retain moisture and keep soil temperature cooler. **However, mulch should not be applied right up to the trunk which could create a “mulch volcano”** (below). The root flare of trees should be visible, not covered by mulch. See this Rutgers University fact sheet for more information at: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs099/>. One more tip for healthy trees: do not fertilize your trees (and shrubs) after July 4th or you will encourage new growth that may be susceptible to winter kill.



More tree-planting tips:

- [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/planting\\_a\\_tree\\_successfully\\_requires\\_the\\_correct\\_planting\\_depth](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/planting_a_tree_successfully_requires_the_correct_planting_depth)
- <https://extension.illinois.edu/news-releases/fall-great-time-planting-trees>
- <https://extension.illinois.edu/.../2016-03-30-plant-tree>





## Celebrating Coastal Awareness Month in Wisconsin

<https://discoverwisconsin.com/blog/celebrating-coastal-awareness-month-in-wisconsin/>



During the month of September, we are so excited to celebrate our Great Lakes' coasts home to Wisconsin, [Lake Michigan](#) and [Lake Superior](#). Learn more about Coastal Awareness Month and why it is so important to Discover Wisconsin and Wisconsin itself, ways you can celebrate these two amazing bodies of water, and how to honor the coasts' rich history. Let's dive into these two exclusive coasts of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior!

### What is Coastal Awareness Month?

Wisconsin is home to two Great Lakes, Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, and they both play a significant role in Wisconsinites' lives such as in our state's recreation, tourism, and history. Because of these coasts' presence in our quality of life, Coastal Awareness Month is designated to remind locals and their communities alike to protect, promote, and enjoy these Great Lakes that Wisconsin calls home.



Lake Michigan is the second largest Great Lake, spanning over 22,300 square miles, and is the largest freshwater lake in the entire country! And in the world? It's the fifth largest! But Lake Michigan plays a bigger role than just its vast size. It is such an important part to Wisconsin, especially the economy. Lake Michigan provides an unlimited access to water, routes to transport goods, and conjoins the local shoreline communities. Each city booms with beauty, spectacular views, and thrilling activities to experience along the coast of Lake Michigan.



Another gem of Wisconsin is Lake Superior, the largest of the Great Lakes covering 31,700 square miles! Held within these waters are several national treasures including the [Apostle Islands](#), state parks, and recreational areas to take it all in.

To further recognize these two incredible Great Lakes, The Department of Administration's (DOA) [Wisconsin Coastal Management Program](#) (WCMP) works hand-in-hand with Great Lakes stakeholders to support coastal communities, and are dedicated to protect and promote the lakes' natural, cultural, and historical resources that

these bodies of water provide to our state. Since 1978, their mission has been and continues to be to balance resource protection and sustainability as the coasts develop throughout the 15 surrounding counties of both Lake Michigan and Lake Superior.

During Coastal Awareness Month, there are many ways to celebrate and enjoy both Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Start your adventure and celebrate this September through a variety of activities offered at the connected coastal towns. Celebrate and experience Lake Michigan in Port Washington, one of the connected coastal towns built right on the shores of Lake Michigan. This town takes pride in being the first man-made harbor on our entire continent! Now is your chance to get out and explore these surrounding parks, nature preserves and sandy beaches. Harrington Beach State Park is home to 715 acres right along shores of Lake Michigan including a mile long beach, hiking trails, and picnic areas. Another must see is Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve, one of the few remaining untouched bluffs on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

And you can't forget to celebrate and visit Lake Superior, another one of our treasured Great Lakes. Ashland, Wisconsin is known as the heart and soul of Chequamegon Bay, a world-class fishery and scenic destination showcasing the beauty of Lake Superior. Ashland County is also home to [The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore](#) on Lake Superior, with 18 of the islands located there. At this prized lakeshore, sandy beaches, rocky shores holding sea caves, and many lighthouses scatter the scenic landscapes.



Amongst these coastal cities and array of activities and attractions, there are many more to explore. Dedicate this September to seeing and celebrating these amazing Great Lakes that we are proud to call home.

Not only do these majestic Great Lakes of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior host a variety of activities and are awaiting your upcoming adventures, they are rooted deep in history. During this month, honor its rich history by visiting the many museums and sanctuaries to learn more about what makes them true gems to Wisconsin. To learn about Lake Michigan's history, visit the [Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary](#), home of 36 shipwrecks that were crucial in building our nation between the 1830's and 1930's.



Image from  
<https://www.facebook.com/WIDNR/videos/wisconsin-shipwreck-coast-national-marine-sanctuary/591852182202344/>

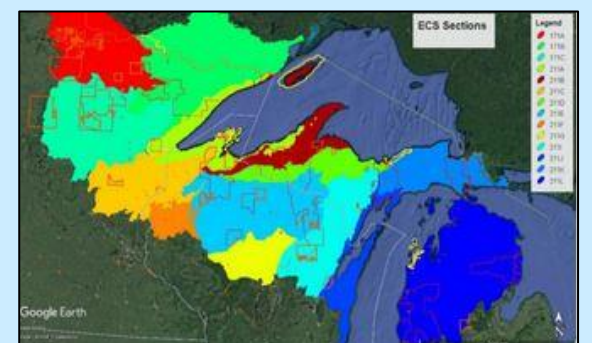
You will also want to check out the [Wisconsin Maritime Museum](#) of Manitowoc to see historic artifacts and exhibits, including the submarine USS Cobia. To learn more about Lake Superior's history and heritage, stop by Superior, Wisconsin, home to the SS Meteor that you can tour. This ship and museum is the last above-water Whaleback ship in the entire world! Not only can you explore the interior of the ship and learn of its historic role, the museum also offers exhibits of famous Great Lakes shipwrecks and shipbuilding.

This September, celebrate both Lake Michigan and Lake Superior during Coastal Awareness Month. Through these various destinations and activities, you can begin to understand and appreciate its importance, celebrate its waters, and honor its rich history. Dive into Lake Michigan and Lake Superior this upcoming September. Before heading out on your adventure to celebrate Coastal Awareness Month in Wisconsin, watch a Discover Wisconsin original short, 'Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast: Diving into Our Maritime History' featuring the newest National Marine Sanctuary now: <https://youtu.be/1AC6B79-THk>.

### 'Once in a career' Northwoods lakes study lays the groundwork for future research on air and water quality

Excerpts from <https://www.wxpr.org/energy-environment/2023-08-03/once-in-a-career-northwoods-lakes-study-lays-the-groundwork-for-future-research-on-air-and-water-quality>

Results are just starting to come back from a major lakes study across the Northwoods. Every five years, the EPA collects samples from more than 900 lakes in the U.S. That comes out to about 30 lakes each between Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.



Trent Wickman says that's a good baseline, but he wanted to more from the region that contains half the natural lakes in the U.S. He's the U.S. Forest Service Air Resource Specialist for Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. He came up with the idea to test hundreds of lakes all in the northern regions of each state, what's generally referred to as the Northwoods, as an expansion of the *National Lakes Study*.

The goal of the study is not to solve a problem necessarily but to create a database that researchers will be able to work from in the future. It will also give scientists a general idea of lake health and air quality in the Northwoods.

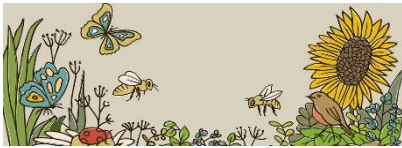
"I think so many people in this part of the country have connections to lakes, either have a cabin on a lake, or they have a friend with a cabin, or they have a campground or it seems like everybody can identify with a lake somewhere, or maybe multiple lakes. I think everybody's concerned just about their health and how they're doing. I think there's concerns from people with relation to climate change and how that may be affecting our lakes or other stressors that they see," said Wickman. "I think this is going to help maybe answer some of those questions or help to give an idea of what's going on." The lab results from the samples are just starting to come back. Researchers will be compiling the data in the coming months.





Bee-Safe Nursery Plants

<https://xerces.org/pesticides/bee-safe-nursery-plants>



Did you know that countless flowering plants sold in many nurseries and big box stores are treated with harmful pesticides that could kill butterflies and other pollinators feeding on their nectar? Studies have shown that even our native milkweeds - which are the only plants monarch butterfly caterpillars can feed on - are often treated with toxic pesticides that persist long after the milkweed is planted in a garden or landscape bed.

A recent pesticides study gathered samples from hundreds of milkweed plants grown by nurseries in 15 states. More than 50 different pesticides were found, with the tested plants averaging up to 28 pesticides per plant! And every year, more than 3 million pounds of pesticides are applied to nursery and floriculture crops across our country. Millions upon millions of butterflies, native bees and other pollinators end up ingesting these pesticides, sometimes with fatal results.

Scientists tracking butterfly populations are growing concerned and sounding the alarm as they see steep declines in many beloved species, including the monarch. The biggest threats to all butterflies include loss of habitat to development and unsustainable agriculture, the effects of climate change, and continued exposure to pesticides.

Buy Bee-Safe Plants

Bee-safe (or pollinator-safe) plants are free from pesticides harmful to bees and other pollinators. Be aware that nurseries - even those producing pollinator plants - may have treated their plants with pesticides. Growers are very sensitive to consumer intolerance for plant damage, and sometimes states mandate pesticide applications to prevent the spread of certain pests. Toxic levels of insecticides and high levels of fungicides have been detected in nursery plants repeatedly. Unfortunately, bees and butterflies may encounter risks from the commonplace use of pesticides during plant production, which can leave residues on or in plants. Choose to find, buy, and grow pollinator-safe plants to create a welcoming home for pollinators.

Talk to Your Nursery

To determine if plants for sale are pollinator-safe, talk to your nursery, garden center, or plant vendor. Let them know you want plants free of harmful pesticide contamination. Nurseries are more likely to make investments in pollinator-friendly production if their customers make it clear this is what they want. By respectfully asking the questions outlined here, you will signal that customers are informed and care about the safety of pollinators. We suggest these simple steps:

- Seek out USDA certified organic plants and seeds
- Avoid plants grown with neonicotinoids and similar systemic insecticides

- Ask what steps the nursery takes to offer plants grown with pollinator-friendly pest management practices
- Grow your own plants if you can't find pollinator-safe plants for sale

Join the Movement

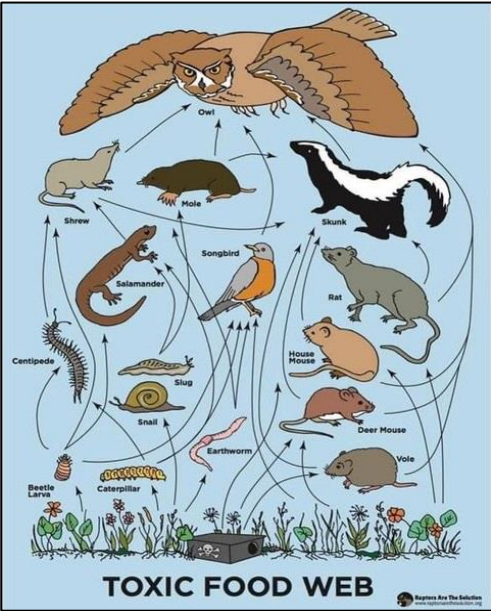
We need your voice to make a difference! The more people who visit, call, or write to their nurseries about harmful pesticide residues, the more pollinator-safe plants we can hope to see for sale. Learn what to ask and join us across the U.S. and Canada in advocating for bee-safe plants. Let's do this together! Visit [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMyR3neAY90pmGIGULI5n2ProMr6Y5y\\_xt3JuHhROitL\\_gkA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMyR3neAY90pmGIGULI5n2ProMr6Y5y_xt3JuHhROitL_gkA/viewform) for more information.



Resources

- [Buying Bee-Safe Plants: a guide for customers](#)
- [Offering Bee-Safe Nursery Plants: A Guide for Nurseries](#)
- [Buying Bee-Safe Plants postcard](#)
- [Pollinator Conservation Resource Center](#)
- <https://wisconsinpollinators.com/Articles/Neonicotinoids.aspx>
- <https://beelab.umn.edu/pesticide-free-plants>

Other harmful substances to beneficial pollinators and other wildlife include insecticides and rodenticides. Avoid using these products as well – they harm natural ecosystems and can interrupt food chains.



Rusty Patched Bumblebee Critical Habitat Ruling

<https://www.pollinatorfriendly.org/news/rusty-patched-bumble-bee-critical-habitat-ruling>



A federal judge in mid-August rejected the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to refuse to designate critical habitat for highly endangered rusty patched bumble bees and ordered the Service to reconsider.

Despite the bees having been listed as an endangered species in 2017, in part due to the loss of 99% of their native grasslands in the Northeast and upper Midwest, the Service determined in September, 2020 that designating critical habitat for them was "not prudent." The agency claimed that lack of habitat did not limit the bees' conservation. Rejecting that claim, the judge held that the Service could forego designating critical habitat for the bees "only if the designation would not be beneficial for the species," which the judge found was not supported by the record. The Trump administration decision to deny critical habitat contradicted the agency's own findings that habitat loss and degradation have contributed to the species' decline, according to the ruling.

"Once again, it took a lawsuit to ensure that the rusty patched bumble bee gets the protections it deserves," said Lucas Rhoads, staff attorney at NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council). "Our critical pollinators are disappearing, and the least we can do is protect the areas that these species call home. The court's decision makes clear that this isn't just a moral imperative, but a legal one. The Service now must act quickly to protect the bee's habitat before it is too late."

Once common in the Midwest and Northeast, the rusty patched bumble bee has suffered an 87% decline and was protected under the Endangered Species Act in 2017. In addition to habitat loss and degradation, pesticides, climate change and disease have contributed to that decline. "I'm so glad the court saw through the Service's cynical attempt to deny rusty patched bumble bees the critical habitat protection they so obviously need," said Lori Ann Burd, environmental health director at the Center for Biological Diversity. "It's time for the Service to stop dodging its duty to prevent the extinction of these gravely imperiled bees and give them habitat protection right away. If we don't stop habitat destruction and the use of deadly pesticides in the places where these beautiful bumble bees need most to survive, they'll keep moving toward extinction."

The Endangered Species Act requires the Service to designate critical habitat for listed species, with few exceptions. Species without designated critical habitat are only half as likely to be moving toward recovery as species with critical habitat. The suit was brought by NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council), the Center for Biological Diversity, and Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas.

For more about bees, the threats they face, and how we can help them, visit <https://www.ecowatch.com/save-the-bees-guide-2655304561.html#toggle-gdpr>.





## Wasps – Misunderstood Insects

<https://www.facebook.com/ChampaigncountyMasterGardeners>

Many people are frightened of wasps because they have the potential to sting. Wasps are a group of diverse insects with at least 100,000 species; **98.5% of wasp species are solitary non-stinging varieties that nest alone or have no nest.** In contrast, social wasps live in colonies, sharing one nest. **Generally, social wasps do not sting but will sting to defend their colony.** Fewer than 30 species of wasps in the U.S. are social wasps. In general, the benefits of wasps outweigh their potential for harm. See University of Minnesota Extension at <https://extension.umn.edu/yard.../wasps-are-gardeners-friend>.



Great black wasp nectaring on mountain mint

Wasps are ecologically important and help control insect pests. To feed their young, many wasps prey on insects such as aphids, flies, caterpillars, crickets, and spiders. Parasitoid wasps lay their eggs in insects (such as aphids, beetles, tomato hornworms, emerald ash borers) that are eaten (and killed) by the larva after the eggs hatch. Scavenger wasps eat dead insects and worms.



A European paper wasp feeding on an imported cabbageworm - a species that feeds on crops like cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, rutabaga, & brussels sprouts.

Wasps also are pollinators. Adult wasps primarily eat sugars such as nectar and act as pollinators when gathering nectar from flowers. Because wasps have a short tongue, they prefer shallow flowers where the nectar is easily available. Wasps represent 15% of the total flower visiting insects. Wasps further are a food source for birds, small mammals, and other insects.



Goldenrod crab spider preying on a wasp

All wasps have a complete life cycle with egg, larval, pupal and adult stages. You generally see

the adults as the eggs and larvae are in the nests. The wasps' larva are white and usually look like grubs. Wasps nest in a variety of sites, sometimes on and inside of buildings, or sometimes in trees or in the ground. Wasps make their nests from chewed-up wood fibers mixed with saliva, which makes a papery pulp. Social wasp colonies live only one year. In late summer, new queens and males are produced.



From <https://www.loyalpest.com/what-do-different-wasp-nests-look-like/>

Queens – the only member of the colony to survive the winter – mate and leave their old nests and find a well-protected place to spend the winter while the old queen and workers die in the cold weather. When the weather warms up, each queen becomes active and selects a location to start construction of the new nest.

Wasps are good for garden pest control; however, it is important to avoid being stung by social wasps. Wasps are aware of movement up to 15 feet away from their nests, but don't become aggressive until movement is within 1 to 3 feet of the nest. So, because of the benefits of wasps, it usually is best to leave nests and merely avoid disturbing them. If, however, a wasp nest is located on or in your house, in an area frequented by people, or if someone in your family is allergic to wasp stings, it may be necessary to remove wasp nests. See Michigan State University Extension for advice on removing wasp nests. [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/getting\\_rid\\_of\\_wasps\\_nests](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/getting_rid_of_wasps_nests).



### Why are there so many wasps in the fall?

In the fall, wasps, particularly yellowjackets, may become unwelcome guests at outdoor activities, but all they want is something to eat. As fall approaches and progresses, many plants stop blooming, reducing the amount of food available for yellowjackets (and other social wasps). Additionally, nests may contain thousands of workers. Because of this lack of food, and the large number of wasps, they will begin searching for food, and they are attracted to sweet food items such as carbonated beverages, juices, candy, and fruit.



To help avoid any issues with wasps, place beverages in cups when you are outdoors so you can see what you are drinking. If a

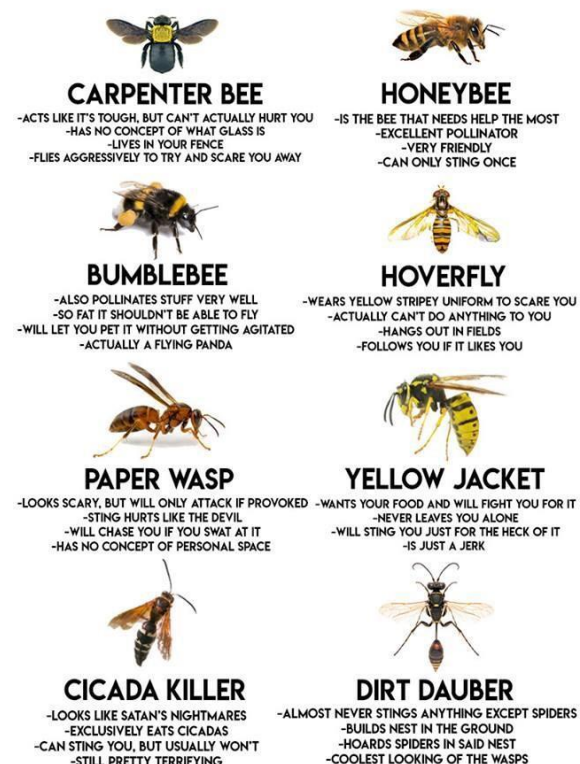
yellowjacket decides to check you out, blow on it or brush it away rather than swatting at it (which will commonly result in you getting stung). Providing fall-blooming plants, such as goldenrods and asters, can provide alternate food sources, so maybe they won't need to visit your picnic and cause a ruckus (information from <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2023-07-28-love-wasps-good-bugs-get-bad-name>).



For more about these misunderstood creatures, visit:

- <https://insectid.wisc.edu/online-insect-identification-tool/wasps-and-bees/>
- <https://www.thespruce.com/hornet-vs-wasp-7376280>
- <https://wiscontext.org/what-do-when-wasps-get-too-close-comfort>
- <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/plant-flowers-to-encourage-beneficial-insects/>

## A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO YELLOW STRIPEY THINGS





SEPTEMBER | 2023

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

1

Dragonflies and damselflies can be found hunting over fields and wetlands. Dragonflies are stout-bodied, and they land with their wings out flat. Damselflies have long, slender abdomens, eyes on the sides of their heads, and they usually sit with their wings together over their backs.



4

Look for male Ospreys tending to their young. Females migrated last month; peak migration for males and young is later this month.

7

Yellowjackets often build their nests in vacant rodent tunnels beneath the ground. However, these hidden nests are no match for the skunks, raccoons, and black bears that dig into the ground for a nutritious yellowjacket snack.

9

Mushrooms seem to pop up overnight with the first cooler rains—puffballs, stinkhorns, hen of the woods, and more appear throughout the fall. Stinkhorns usually live up to their name, with a slimy, elongated body and vile smell.

11

On clear days with a northerly breeze, look for kettles of Broad-winged Hawks circling high in the sky on their way to South America. Other birds, such as Blackpoll Warblers, are also migrating south.

15

Not all migrating orange butterflies are Monarchs; American and Painted Ladies also migrate this time of year. Monarch wings are orange on both the dorsal (upper) and ventral (lower) surfaces. The dorsal surface of American and Painted Lady wings is orange, but the ventral surface is spotted gray-brown.



18

Find strikingly colored hooded owl moth caterpillars feeding on asters and goldenrods.

20

Before migrating, Common Loons feed in groups, also known as rafts. Experts believe rafting helps the loons feed more efficiently by spending less time defending territories and more time eating.

23

Today is the Fall Equinox, or the first day of fall. Daylight and darkness are both 12 hours long.

25

Bumblebees are the most common pollinators seen when temperatures are 55°F or lower. They not only have more insulation than other insects, but they can also warm themselves by shivering their wing muscles.

26

Woodchucks are eating as much as they can to add 30 to 40 percent to their body weight before hibernation. If they can't accumulate enough fat reserves, they will not survive the winter.

28

Dark-eyed Juncos can be found year-round in some parts of the state, but their population increases in the fall as many return from the north to overwinter here. Look for their distinctive white breast and dark hood and listen for their sweet bell-like trills.



29

Full Moon



30

Last day to enter the Mass Audubon Photo Contest. If you have taken photos of any of the wonderful things listed in the almanac, enter them at [massaudubon.org/picturethis](https://massaudubon.org/picturethis).

 Mass Audubon

 Picture This

Mass Audubon Photo Contest

[massaudubon.org](https://massaudubon.org)

Prevent Invasive Species this Fall!  
<https://www.facebook.com/WildRiversISC>



Camping is arguably one of the best ways to experience the outdoors in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northeast Wisconsin. As summer camping transitions to fall camping, we want to remind everyone to look out for invasive species and take extra precautions to prevent their spread! Let's keep our outdoor spaces **#invasivefree** and ready to enjoy for years to come! **#playcleango** **#invasivespecies** **#camping** **#rvcamping** **#firewood** **#dontmovefirewood** **#forestpests**

Too many bills to pay? Not liking your current life? Don't know what to do?

BECOME A CATERPILLAR!



Never have to buy shoes  
Have a book named after how hungry you are  
Have 4,000 muscles and never lift a single weight  
Get extremely chonky, turn to mush in a blanket and then become a fragile butterfly  
Have only one job- to eat!

NEBRASKA  
- GAME & PARKS -




THESE ANIMALS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY FALLEN LEAVES

 American Bumble Bee

 Ring Neck Snake

 Wood Frogs and American Toads

 Luna Moth

 Spotted salamander

 Fritillary and Checkerspot Butterflies ...and many more

LEAVE LEAVES ALONE

Don't blow! Leave the leaves in your planting beds and mow-mulch your leaves into the lawn. Use an electric blower if you must. [www.healthyards.org](https://www.healthyards.org)

Seed sharing: The most economical way to propagate our beautiful and incredibly important native plant species

 Too soon

 Just right

 Too late

 Too soon

 Just right

 Too late

 Too soon

 Just right

 Too late

 Too soon

 Just right

 Too late

HEALTHY YARDS

